

Stow Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 16, 2021

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held on February 16, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the evening remotely VIA Zoom Videoconferencing in accordance with the Governors' Executive Order on Remote Meeting participation.

There were present: Jeff Saunders, Chair
Serena Furman, Vice Chair
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
Doug Morse

Absent: Andy Bass
Matt Styckiewicz

Also Present: Kathy Sferra, Conservation Coordinator
Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant
Tom Porcher, Associate Member
Dan James, Associate Member

Jeff Saunders called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes

Serena Furman moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2021 as drafted. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.

Appointment – Kristine Butler – 68 Pompositticut Road
Request for Permit Extension and Modification – DEP #299-572

The owner was present and described the history of the site, including the prior violation by a former landowner, and her attempts to address the requirements in the Order of Conditions. She has hired an invasive species contractor and used goats to manage the invasives in the lower portion of her property adjacent to the wetland. However, the required 25 trees have not stump-sprouted and she feels it would be financially burdensome to plant that many trees. She requested an extension to complete the work and also requested that the Commission consider allowing shrubs in place of trees. It was noted that there was flexibility built into the Order for this, but it required approval by the Commission. Ms. Butler said that it was her goal to have the site be more like a meadow. The Commission asked that Ms. Butler prepare a planting plan for their review at a subsequent meeting. She stated that her intention was to get the wetland seed mix required by the Order down this spring and then do the planting. She will try to get the Commission a plan in time for it to be reviewed at the

3/16/21 meeting. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to approve a three year extension for the Order of Conditions. Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.*

Public Hearing – Andrea Harris, 40 Pompositticut Road – Request for Determination of Applicability

Jeff Saunders opened the hearing and read the hearing notice. Present were Andrea Harris and her husband. Ms. Harris requested approval for invasive species work in the wetland and buffer zone adjacent to her property. She said she has been battling invasive species there for 30 years but has gotten to the point where she wants to hire an outside contractor, Green Abundance by Design. They will do spot herbicide treatment and occasional foliar spraying. No tree removal is proposed with the exception or removal of Norway maple. The Commission was agreeable to the plan but asked that Ms. Harris provide an update after three years of work. *Serena Furman moved to close the public hearing. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.* The Commission discussed the Determination and conditions and agreed to ask for the contractor's pesticide license and requested a report and photos at the end of the three year period. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to issue a negative 3 Determination. Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.*

Public Hearing – Andrew Borg, 8 Davis Road – Request for Amendment of Order of Conditions, DEP 299-679

Jeff Saunders opened the public hearing and read the hearing notice. Present were Andrew Borg, Scott Hayes of Foresite Engineering, and Brett Taylor, General Contractor. Scott summarized the history of the project, and the violation with regard to the lower retaining wall. He displayed a plan showing the proposed mitigation. Scott is proposing to lower the middle section of the wall by 1.5 feet and relocate several sections of the wall that were built further into the Lake. He noted that the dock has been dismantled and removed. He said that the plantings will be in accordance with the landscaping plan with some slight modifications to the locations, but no change in the number of plantings or species. He said that with the mitigation plan, there would be no protrusions of the wall beyond the original bank. Andrew noted that he had started the Chapter 91 process for the dock.

The Commission clarified that the proposed work would be done by hand. If necessary a conveyor might be used to get the excess materials to the top of the bank but no equipment will come down below the upper retaining wall. They will reuse as much of the existing stone as they can, but expect that some earth materials and stone will need to be removed as well as waste mortar. Kathy Sferra asked if they might find some native plantings that could be planted at the top of wall and hang down. Another option might be climbing plants that would grow up like Clematis. The goal of protecting the lake bottom from debris was noted and the applicant has agreed to install a coir roll at the bottom of the slope, and additional erosion controls between the foundation and the top of the stairs during house construction. The idea of phasing the wall work was discussed – working section by section so as to minimize the area that is destabilized. The need to perform the work during drawdown was

discussed, along with the time constraints that this presents. It was thought that Steve Phaneau would need 7-10 days to get the work done. Sferra noted that the Lake is supposed to be brought up by April 1st. All present thought that was do-able with wood chips used to stabilize the lowest landing area. The Commission asked that the applicant be responsible for staking spot grades in the field prior to the work to ensure that the final grades are accurate and there is no fill remaining in the floodplain. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to close the public hearing. Serena Furman seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.*

Public Hearing (continuation) – 44 Pine Point – Notice of Intent

Sferra noted that the applicants have again requested an extension while they try to resolve issues with the Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Health. They have asked for an additional month. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to continue the public hearing to March 16, 2021 at or after 7:30 pm. Doug Morse seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.*

8 Davis – Amended Order of Conditions

The Commission reviewed a draft decision for 8 Davis, and made numerous changes to reflect the discussions at tonight's hearing. They noted the need for a date certain to finish the retaining wall remediation work per the Enforcement Order and included that in the decision. *Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to issue the Amended Order of Conditions as revised. Doug Morse seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.*

Stow Acres Forum Follow Up

Kathy Sferra noted the very well-attended forum on Stow Acres and said that it was posted online for those who were not able to see it. She summarized the plan that was presented and noted that an email address was being publicized for comments and questions. So far comments are generally positive with lots of good questions. Members praised the work done to date.

Coordinator and Commission Member Updates

- Dan agreed to take the new project at Minute Man Air Field.
- Sferra noted that Ingeborg Hegemann Clark had received a Worcester Area Hall of Fame Award. Hegemann Clark thanked the Commission for their letter of support.
- Sferra also noted that fundraising is going very well for Hallock Point.

At 9:20 pm, Ingeborg Hegemann Clark moved to adjourn, Doug Morse seconded and the motion was approved unanimously (4-0) on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Sferra, Conservation Coordinator

Materials Used at Meeting

Draft Minutes and Meeting Packet

Plans and Submittals for 40 Pompositticut

Plans, Photographs and Submittals for 8 Davis

Stow Conservation Commission Minutes

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Approved 3/2/2021